

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 14 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 13, 15 and 16 and 18-22, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending have been reproduced below.

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement for guiding fluidizing gas to a fluidized bed gasifier or combustor, said nozzle arrangement comprising:

a nozzle piece attached to a nozzle tube or forming ~~one entity with said a~~ structural unit with a nozzle tube, the nozzle piece comprising (i) a nozzle chamber, ~~and~~ (ii) a horizontally extending nozzle channel in flow communication with the nozzle chamber, and ending at (iii) a blow opening at the end of said the nozzle piece, said nozzle the blow opening directing fluidizing gas being blown through the nozzle chamber and said the nozzle channel being limited from above by a lid into the fluidized bed gasifier or combustor;

an impervious lid for defining an upper limit of the nozzle chamber, the nozzle channel and the blow opening; and

a protecting cover, attached ~~outside~~ above and spaced apart from the lid, for minimizing cooling of the outer surface of the nozzle piece due to the fluidizing gas being blown through the nozzle piece into the fluidized bed gasifier or combustor.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the protecting cover comprises a cover plate and ribs arranged at least to the periphery thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the protecting cover is attached to the lid by means of ribs at least at the periphery of the protecting cover.

17. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising heat insulation arranged between the lid and the protecting cover.

18. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid at all sides, except for the one on the blow opening side of the nozzle piece.

19. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 15, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid by ribs extending to the side surfaces of ~~said~~ the lid.

20. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 16, wherein the protecting cover is attached to the lid by ribs extending to the side surfaces of ~~said~~ the lid.

21. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising means arranged at the blow opening end of the nozzle channel for forming a rising gas flow ~~[[to]]~~ at the front of the blow opening.

22. (Currently Amended) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, further comprising a smooth bump (i) located on the upper surface of the nozzle channel, (ii) and extending substantially throughout the whole width thereof, and (iii) arranged at the blow opening end of the nozzle channel for forming a rising gas flow in the front of the blow opening.

23. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is made of the same material as that of the lid.

24. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is attached by welding to the lid or to the sides of the lid.

25. (Previously Presented) A nozzle arrangement in accordance with claim 13, wherein the protecting cover is ceramic.